



## *Coconino County Sheriff's Office*

*Bill Pribil, Sheriff*

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

**Date: June 23, 2010**

**Contact: Lt. Mark Christian (928) 226-5057**

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### **Missing Aircraft Located north of Seligman Arizona**

Flagstaff, AZ- On Wednesday June 23, 2010 at about 7:00 a.m. Emergency Communication Specialists of the Northern Arizona Regional 911 Reception Center received a call of a possible airplane crash near Trinity Mountain 9.5 miles northeast of Seligman, Arizona. .

The Los Alamos New Mexico Police Department is investigating the disappearance of a 1981 Beechcraft A36 aircraft; with tail number N155FT piloted by Gary Cavasos. Pilot Cavasos was last seen at about 9 p.m. Friday June 18 at the Santa Fe Municipal airport. No flight plan had been filed, and Cavasos whereabouts was unknown.

The initial call to the Coconino County Sheriffs Office for the overdue aircraft was received from the Arizona Division of Emergency Management (ADEM), State Search and Rescue Coordinator. That office received information in the early morning hours of June 23 of the missing/overdue aircraft. Investigation by ADEM provided investigative leads which indicated the missing aircraft may have gone down in the vicinity of Trinity Mountain, north of Seligman. Civil Air Patrol activated at the request of ADEM and located the crash site on the northwest side of Trinity Mountain at an elevation of approximately 6900 feet.

Arizona Department of Public Safety helicopter responded with a Coconino County Sheriffs deputy and landed within hiking distance of the crash site. The deputy and crew located the crash site and found no survivors. A partial tail number of N155F...was located along with some human remains.

A Coconino County Sheriff Detective was flown to the scene for further investigation. Positive identification of what appears to be a single victim is pending an investigation by the Coconino County Medical Examiners Office, and the Coconino County Sheriffs Office. The aircraft located at the crash site appears to be that of missing pilot Gary Cavasos. Agencies participating in this investigation include the Civil Air patrol, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Coconino County Sheriffs Office, National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration.